

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

FREEDOM FOR HEALTH CARE WORKERS ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 31, 2023

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong opposition to H.R. 497, the Freedom for Health Care Workers Act that would endanger health care workers, their families and their patients.

H.R. 497 would put more strain on our already fragile health care system by eliminating the COVID-19 vaccine mandate for health care providers.

As a Member of Congress, who represents a congressional district that has experienced the worst of the COVID-19 pandemic, I must oppose this bill.

The Biden administration plans to end the public health emergency in May, but we must remember that we are currently in a winter surge.

The current COVID positivity rate in Houston is 20 percent.

We are still in a pandemic, and we must do what we can to slow the spread so that less people are ending up in hospitals.

Before widespread availability and access to COVID vaccines, health care workers were 3 times more likely to get COVID than the rest of the public.

By keeping the vaccine mandates for health care workers, we can continue to slow the spread and keep health care workers and their families safe.

In a 2020 survey by MentalHealthAmerica, 76 percent of respondents were worried about bringing COVID home to their children, and half of respondents worried about bringing COVID home to their partners or an older family member.

In a survey of U.S. physicians, it was found that the portion of the day spent treating COVID-19 patients was associated with higher PTSD scores, depression and anxiety.

Additionally, many health care workers at the beginning of the pandemic saw coworkers get sick and die from COVID, and this contributed to their increased stress and anxiety.

According to the University of Chicago, it was found that an increase in staff vaccination rates resulted in fewer COVID-19 cases among the staff and the patients.

Additionally, the same study found that the more transmittable variants of COVID may require additional boosters for staff to help manage COVID-19 cases in nursing homes.

By taking away the vaccine mandate, we are making health care workers and their patients even more susceptible to the virus.

By taking away the vaccine mandate, we are neglecting vulnerable Americans who deserve their right to life and safety when getting health care.

It is important to remember, that vaccines are not new and that they are necessary to limiting viruses and keeping the country safe.

It is federal law that any health care settings that receive money for Medicare or Medicaid patients must ensure that their health care workers are vaccinated against COVID-19.

Even though the vaccine requirement caused many health care workers to leave, the health care work force is larger than it was prior to the pandemic.

As of December 2022, the health sector added 54,700 jobs over the previous month and the employment in healthcare was 1.2 percent higher than the peak in February 2020.

I urge my colleagues to oppose this bill to show our support for our health care workers.

INTRODUCTION OF THE FAIR COLA FOR SENIORS ACT OF 2023

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 2023

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, today I introduced the Fair COLA for Seniors Act of 2023, which would require using the Consumer Price Index for the Elderly (CPI-E) when calculating cost of living adjustments (COLAs) for federal retirement programs. The proposed index would adjust the benefits programs such as Social Security, Supplemental Security Income, civil service retirement, military retirement, veterans' pensions and compensations, and other retirement programs.

Current law uses the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) which measures costs solely of working individuals—unlike most Social Security beneficiaries. Using CPI-W does not adequately consider the rising expenditures of retirement, such as housing and healthcare costs. This inadequate accounting amounts to an effective decrease in benefits for those who rely on these federal programs. The proposed change will lead to increased COLAs, ensuring that seniors are able to keep up with the rising costs of their real-world expenses.

I thank Representatives JIMMY PANETTA (CA-19), STEVE COHEN (TN-09), LUCY MCBATH (GA-07), SETH MOULTON (MA-06), BETTY MCCOLLUM (MN-04), LOIS FRANKEL (FL-22), RAÚL GRIJALVA (AZ-03), BRENDAN BOYLE (PA-02), MARY GAY SCANLON (PA-05), DINA TITUS (NV-01), CHELLIE PINGREE (ME-01), DEBORAH ROSS (NC-02), ILHAN OMAR (MN-05), JASON CROW (CO-06), JOYCE BEATTY (OH-03), ANDY KIM (NJ-03), GWEN MOORE (WI-04), TED LIEU (CA-36), and JAMAAL BOWMAN (NY-16) for their support as original cosponsors. I look forward to working with the Chairpersons of the Ways and Means, Veterans' Affairs, Oversight and Reform, and Armed Services Committees to ensure this critical piece of legislation becomes law.

INTRODUCTION OF THE PROMOTING ACCESS TO DIABETIC SHOES ACT

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 2023

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, today I am pleased to introduce the Promoting Access to Diabetic Shoes Act.

With serious comorbidities and complications associated with it, diabetes has a significant impact on the health of our country. Diabetes is the leading cause of non-traumatic lower extremity amputation in the United States. Research shows that approximately 50 percent of people with diabetes will develop at least some degree of peripheral neuropathy and that 25 percent can expect to develop a foot ulcer at some point. As many as 24 percent of people who develop a foot ulcer will go on to have an amputation.

The good news is that preventive measures such as therapeutic or diabetic shoes can help avert the progression of neuropathy and the need for amputation. However, current Medicare statute does not allow nurse practitioners and physician assistants to fulfill certification requirements as a patient's primary care providers. This means that patients who typically see these providers need to be referred to a physician for certification and continue to see them afterwards. Not only does it increase costs, this policy interrupts patient care and delays access to time-sensitive services.

My legislation would allow nurse practitioners and physician assistants to fulfill these documentation requirements, which is within their scope of practice. Enacting this legislation would streamline this administrative process and allow Medicare patients to get the care they need in a timely fashion.

I urge my colleagues support this bipartisan legislation.

INTRODUCTION OF THE EMANCIPATION STATUE REMOVAL ACT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 2023

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to introduce the Emancipation Statue Removal Act, which would remove the Emancipation Statue from Lincoln Park, a federal park in the District of Columbia, and require the Secretary of the Interior to donate the statue to a museum or similar entity. This bill is part of a series of statue and memorial removal bills I am introducing during Black History Month.

The Emancipation Statue was dedicated on April 14, 1876, the 11th anniversary of President Abraham Lincoln's assassination. Although formerly enslaved Americans paid for this statue, it was designed and sculpted without their input, and it shows. The paternalistic

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

statue depicting a Black man on his knees in front of President Lincoln fails to recognize African Americans' agency in pressing for their own emancipation.

Understandably, recently liberated African Americans during the Reconstruction era were grateful for any recognition of their freedom in a country where they still experienced virtually total exclusion from American life. However, even at the time of its unveiling, prominent Black Americans expressed their displeasure with the statue's design, including Frederick Douglass. During his keynote address at the statue's unveiling, Douglass pointedly did not praise the statue. Rather, in a letter to the editor of the National Republican a few days after the unveiling, Douglass expressed his dismay at the statue: "The negro here, though rising, is still on his knees and nude. What I want to see before I die is a monument representing the negro, not couchant on his knees like a four-footed animal, but erect on his feet like a man."

In 2020, Boston removed its replica of the statue and plans to place it in a publicly accessible location where it can be better contextualized. It is time for Congress to place the original statue in a museum, too.

I strongly urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GREG PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 2023

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I am not recorded for Roll Call No. 95, Roll Call No. 96, Roll Call No. 97, Roll Call No. 98, Roll Call No. 99, and Roll Call No. 100 on Tuesday, January 31, 2023. Since my first day in office, I have been squarely focused on what I was sent here to do: Represent Hoosiers of the 6th Congressional District of Indiana. Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, Congress and the State of Indiana have been laser focused on preventing the spread of COVID-19 and protecting the health of Hoosiers and all Americans. I am proud to have worked across the aisle to pass multiple bipartisan coronavirus relief bills that provided much needed assistance to Hoosiers and small businesses. Unfortunately, the Biden Administration has politicized the COVID-19 pandemic to implement their radical, leftist agenda through unilateral executive action.

I adamantly support H.R. 382, the Pandemic is over Act and H.R. 497, the Freedom for Health Care Workers Act. In September 2022, President Biden said the "pandemic is over," but subsequently decided to extend the Public Health Emergency (PHE) several more times. President Biden has abused the PHE to implement student loan cancellation absent congressional authority, keep students from school, and force vaccine and mask mandates. Regrettably, President Biden compounded workforce shortages by requiring vaccine mandates for federal health care workers, disproportionately hurting rural and underserved communities.

Had I been present I would have voted Yea on Roll Call No. 95 (the Previous Questions), Yea on Roll Call No. 96 (Adoption of H. Res. 75), Nay on Roll Call No. 97 (Motion to Re-

commit), Yea on Roll Call No. 98 (Final Passage of H.R. 497), Nay on Roll Call No. 99 (Motion to Recommit), and Yea on Roll Call No. 100 (Final Passage of H.R. 382).

REMEMBERING THE 1973 VASTER HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL TEAM

HON. BRUCE WESTERMAN

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 2023

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember the 1973 Vaster High School Basketball Team. Vaster High School was in Moscow, Arkansas, in Jefferson County, and at the time, had a population of around 600 people. Although a small community and school, this team had tenacious grit in the State Overall Championship tournament.

Back in 1973, the State of Arkansas decided state champions through an overall state tournament instead of having a state champion by different classifications, as it does today. In a 3-day tournament, Class B Vaster beat Morrilton, a Class AA school on Thursday, then beat Conway, a Class AAA school on Friday, and on Saturday, Vaster faced the Class AAAA, defending state champion, Central High School from Little Rock. It was described as a David versus Goliath matchup going into the game, and everyone expected a blowout win for Central. In the end, Central won the game by only 1 point. Though a heartbreaking loss, Vaster had put itself on the map, had persevered, and exhibited pride in the school, the town, and in the Cinderella run with its first-year head coach and group of fantastic players.

There is an event today honoring the 50th Anniversary of Vasters runner-up bid, and while Vaster High School is no longer in existence, the memory of the School shall always be bright because of the 1973 team who fought Central High for the state title. I would like to finish with naming the members of the 1973 Vaster High School basketball team.

Herbert Pryor (Head Coach), Andrew Carr (Assistant Coach), Cleveland Allen, Erick Biley, Samuel Biley Jr., Reddic Barkins, Rodney Crawford, (Trainer), Jimmy Dade, Carl Evans, James Evans, Tommy Evans, Roy Franklin, Jimmy Gladney, Ronnie Grice (Manager), Homer Jackson, Melvin Jackson, Jacob Jones (Trainer), Charles Petty, Rodney Ryce, Thomas Tarty.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank those who have remembered and are celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the 1973 Vaster High School Basketball Team. These young men will forever be remembered in the history of Arkansas sports.

HONORING MASTER SERGEANT SILVA FOSTER UPON RECEIVING THE DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 2023

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and commend Master Sergeant Silva

Foster of the 349th Air Mobility Wing upon receiving the Distinguished Flying Cross for his service, dedication, and sacrifice during Operation Allies Refuge. He exemplifies the best of America, and his tireless efforts guarantee the safety of all those who call America home.

Last year, the servicemembers of the 349th Air Mobility Wing met a challenge of colossal scale when they played a pivotal role in completing the drawdown of forces from Afghanistan. This command was critical in the largest noncombatant evacuation operation in known history, Operation Allies Refuge, ultimately saving over 124,000 lives. The 349th Air Mobility Wing directly supported the evacuation of nearly 13,000 Afghans while simultaneously managing the security and operations at Hamid Karzai International Airport. I have listened to countless stories from this group of brave men and women that exemplify the character, leadership, and bravery that is cultivated at Travis Air Force Base.

Service records only scratch the surface of the courageous actions performed by the 349th Air Mobility Wing. They put their hearts and lives on the line to save so many. These valiant servicemembers like Master Sergeant Silva Foster epitomize the values of courage and patriotism.

On behalf of a grateful country and all the constituents of California's Eighth Congressional District, I would like to congratulate Master Sergeant Silva Foster of the 349th Air Mobility Wing for receiving the Distinguished Flying Cross and extend my sincere gratitude for his sacrifice and contributions to the defense of this great country.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF MRS. BONNIE BELL MCGOWAN

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 2023

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Mrs. Bonnie Bell McGowan. A beloved member of our community, Mrs. McGowan's life was marked by her love for golf and her unwavering commitment to helping others achieve success through the game.

Shortly before she was born, Mrs. McGowan's parents began managing and operating Pine Needles Lodge and Golf Club. With their home situated on Pine Needles' 18th hole, Mrs. McGowan was heavily exposed to golf in her youth and quickly developed a love for the game. She went on to play at Pinecrest High School, Rollins College, and the University of North Carolina. While traveling with her husband, Pat McGowan, on the PGA tour, she became the president of the PGA Tour Wives Association in the mid-1980s. She later returned home to Pine Needles where she helped carry on her parents' business and worked as a golf instructor. She established her own legacy by becoming the face of Pine Needles and was well known for her thorough and dedicated coaching. In 2016, she became an assistant coach for the Sandhills Community College women's golf team. As proof of her love for the game and true desire to help all succeed on the course, she did not accept pay for her efforts and instead volunteered her time coaching the college team for 6 years. Mrs. McGowan was

also active with the Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA). She led The O'Neal School's FCA chapter for 10 years and supported the FCA Golf Ministry's initiatives in the golf industry.

Sadly, Mrs. McGowan passed away on January 12, 2023, due to complications associated with pancreatic cancer. My thoughts and prayers are with her family and all who knew and loved her. Mrs. McGowan's love for golf and commitment to teaching, supporting, and helping others represents the very best of our community. She leaves behind a remarkable legacy, and I join our entire community in gratitude as we honor her extraordinary life.

Mr. Speaker, please join me today in honoring the life and legacy of Mrs. Bonnie Bell McGowan.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY
OF LARRY R. ROGERS, SR.

HON. JONATHAN L. JACKSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 2023

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of attorney Larry R. Rogers, Sr. Chicago recently lost a powerhouse in the legal community, a dedicated leader in the civil rights fight, and a man who inspired me. America was a better place because Larry lived in it, and I am proud to recognize him in Congress.

As a native to the Roseland neighborhood in the south side of Chicago, Larry was raised by his mother who worked 2 jobs to support their family and pay for her children to attend Catholic school. Larry was inspired by her work ethic and commitment to a good education, which was evident in the path Larry pursued for himself.

After graduating college, Larry put his dreams on hold in order to provide for his own family. While working at 1 of his 3 jobs, Larry struck up a friendship with a customer at a gas station, which ultimately changed his life. Joe Power, a young attorney at the time, encouraged Larry to finish law school. Once he did, Joe recruited Larry to work at the law firm he was in at the time and the two eventually went on to found a personal law and medical malpractice firm, Power Rogers LLP.

Shortly after starting the law firm, it became evident that Larry was destined to be a lawyer. He secured multimillion-dollar verdicts and recoveries for his clients, including a record \$27 million product liability verdict against an infant formula company, which in 1985 was the largest personal injury verdict in Illinois history, and a \$55 million verdict for a brain-damaged woman, which is the largest medical malpractice verdict that went to judgment in Illinois history. In addition to this history-making victories in the courtroom, Larry also achieved historic victories for himself. He served as the first African American President of the Illinois Trial Lawyers Association, was the President of the Cook County Bar Association, and was awarded the John Paul Stevens Award, the Chicago Bar Association's highest and most prestigious award.

While these successes are worthy of mention, Larry's work was more than legal accomplishments. He was often a mentor to young lawyers by being a trailblazer when there

weren't many African American lawyers reaching the same heights as Larry so often did. Throughout his entire life, Larry understood the importance of helping others and advocating to those who needed it most, and that included supporting the young people at the start of their careers. Larry often told those who were new to the legal profession, "Work hard. Maintain your integrity and be willing to associate with others in your field. Get to meet them and learn from them whether the others are African Americans or whites or whatever their ethnic background may be." As I begin my service in Congress, and proudly represent the First District of Illinois, I will carry Larry's words with me and commit myself to helping those in need.

Larry's formidable legal career also had a profound impact on his son, Larry Rogers, Jr., who I am grateful to call a friend. I can see the generational impact of Larry Sr.'s work. Larry Jr. carries the mantle of his father's success, along with several other family members who have become lawyers. And while Larry Sr. has left this world, his spirit will remain as we continue to see the work being done by all of those he mentored, including his own children. Larry was a man who walked the corridors of power and never forgot those who are far too commonly left behind, and his influence will continue to be seen for generations to come.

Larry reached the heights of corporate success while carrying the compassion of the community he came from. In addition to his remarkable career, Larry Sr. was a champion for civil rights and remained a man who kept his heart and commitment with the people who needed it most. I also speak on behalf of my father, Rev. Jesse Jackson, who is grateful for Larry, Sr.'s friendship and dedication to equality throughout their relationship. Larry and my father often worked together, including at Rainbow/PUSH, and I know that we are better because of Larry's focus on social justice, both professionally and personally. The passing of Larry Rogers marks a significant loss for civil rights and a fighter for our community. My family will carry Larry's wisdom with us as the fight continues.

Above it all, Larry is remembered as a wonderful father, grandfather, and friend to those he left behind, including life partner Pam, his children and stepchildren Larry Jr., Dom, Ann Marie, and Frederic, and many grandchildren, sisters, brother, nieces, and nephews. Larry made life better for all of us and we thank God for blessing us with his presence. I hope memories of him serve as a blessing and provide comfort to all he knew.

RECOGNIZING DUNCAN CAMPBELL
AND THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF
FRIENDS OF THE CHILDREN

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 2023

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I want to take the opportunity today to celebrate the accomplishments of Duncan Campbell who, in addition to being a business entrepreneur and a philanthropist, I am grateful to call a friend. Duncan is a pioneer in changing the way we help America's children and young people who

are facing the greatest challenges in life. Starting as a childcare worker for juvenile offenders and later working on the Governor's Children Agenda and serving as Chairman of the Multnomah County Juvenile Services Commission, Duncan has spent decades dedicated to the pursuit of improving the lives of children who are born into unfortunate circumstances. I especially want to highlight a program he created, Friends of the Children, which is celebrating its 30th anniversary this year.

Friends of the Children is a mentoring organization that enrolls children ages 4 to 6 who are facing the most extreme challenges, and provides them with salaried, professional mentors who meet with them every week through high school graduation. Each professional mentor, called a Friend, works with 8 to 10 children. Children spend 16 hours per month with their Friends, working to achieve a set of individualized goals that place them on a path to success.

The Friends model created by Duncan is now gaining national recognition as a solution to some of our greatest challenges, and I find it a privilege to advocate for it here in Congress. It can be used to prevent foster care placement and improve stability for children already in the system. Investing in paid, professional mentoring would reduce the burden on existing systems and increase the number of children receiving evidence-based services. The program has been carefully analyzed by a wide variety of experts. It works. It's extraordinarily successful, having grown into a national network of 30 cities.

Friends of the Children is a program unlike any other. It is the solution to breaking the cycle of poverty and trauma. With the intensity and duration to change life trajectories, it provides more equitable opportunities for youth experiencing trauma or living in extreme poverty. The Friends of the Children relationship-based service model addresses the needs of our country's most vulnerable youth, empowering them to move beyond their circumstances to become healthy, contributing citizens. I encourage my colleagues to partner with chapters that serve their constituents and hear more about how their communities benefit from this program.

I offer my congratulations to Duncan, on the work he's done these last 30 years and I look forward to working with him for years to come.

HONORING FIRST LIEUTENANT
KYLE ANDERSON UPON RECEIVING
THE DISTINGUISHED FLYING
CROSS

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 2023

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and commend First Lieutenant Kyle Anderson of the 349th Air Mobility Wing upon receiving the Distinguished Flying Cross for his service, dedication, and sacrifice during Operation Allies Refuge. He exemplifies the best of America, and his tireless efforts guarantee the safety of all those who call America home.

Last year, the servicemembers of the 349th Air Mobility Wing met a challenge of colossal scale when they played a pivotal role in completing the drawdown of forces from Afghanistan. This command was critical in the largest

noncombatant evacuation operation in known history, Operation Allies Refuge, ultimately saving over 124,000 lives. The 349th Air Mobility Wing directly supported the evacuation of nearly 13,000 Afghans while simultaneously managing the security and operations at Hamid Karzai International Airport. I have listened to countless stories from this group of brave men and women that exemplify the character, leadership, and bravery that is cultivated at Travis Air Force Base.

Service records only scratch the surface of the courageous actions performed by the 349th Air Mobility Wing. They put their hearts and lives on the line to save so many. These valiant servicemembers like First Lieutenant Kyle Anderson epitomize the values of courage and patriotism.

On behalf of a grateful country and all the constituents of California's Eighth Congressional District, I would like to congratulate First Lieutenant Kyle Anderson of the 349th Air Mobility Wing for receiving the Distinguished Flying Cross and extend my sincere gratitude for his sacrifice and contributions to the defense of this great country.

HONORING THE THURSDAY LUNCHEON GROUP'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. GREGORY W. MEEKS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 2023

Mr. MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Thursday Luncheon Group, an organization established in 1973 with the goal of increasing African American participation in the formulation, articulation, and implementation of United States foreign policy.

Since joining Congress more than 20 years ago, and as the first African American to lead the House Foreign Affairs Committee, promoting diplomacy, democracy, development, and diversity in U.S. foreign policy has been one of my main priorities. I have seen firsthand the important benefits of the work of the Thursday Lunch Group to ensure that those making and implementing foreign policy are reflective of the diversity of the United States.

The Thursday Luncheon Group celebrates its 50th anniversary this year and as the U.S. Department of State's oldest Employee Affinity Group, the organization has served as a beacon of light by upholding and advocating for more diverse recruitment, retention and leadership at the State Department, and the U.S. Agency for International Development.

Two senior officers working at what was then known as the U.S. Information Agency: Mr. William B. Davis and Mr. Robert Duman established The Thursday Lunch Group In 1973. Mr. Davis and Duman gathered friends and colleagues at the Department of State and USAID to explore possibilities for greater inclusion and promotion of African Americans in the international affairs. These two founders and those who organized around this important mission began to meet every first Thursday of every month to share professional development opportunities for Foreign Service and Civil Service personnel, while also created

opportunities to interact with leaders in the foreign affairs community.

Half a century later, the Thursday Luncheon Group has over 600 members, including retired and current Department of State and USAID employees, and dedicated members from 5 other federal agencies. Their members have taken prominent roles in the development and execution of U.S. foreign policy, including Chiefs of Mission, Career Ambassadors, and Assistant Secretaries. TLG members monitor recruitment, assignments, employment practices, training, and other matters of vital interest to historically excluded groups at the State Department and USAID. The organization remains committed to mentoring entry-level and mid-level officers to prepare them to become the future leaders in international affairs. Moreover, TLG members are dedicated to giving back to their communities. The organization raises funds to support paid summer internships at the Department of State and established the Terence A. Todman Book scholarship (named after the first African American to be named Career Ambassador, the highest rank among the diplomatic corps) for students at Historically Black Colleges and Universities. I applaud the Thursday Luncheon Group's efforts to promote excellence and inclusion in international affairs and congratulate the members of the Thursday Luncheon Group for 50 years of service in ensuring our country is represented with excellence around the world.

REINTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION TO AWARD THE CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL TO HUMANITARIAN AND SPORTING LEGEND MUHAMMAD ALI

HON. ANDRÉ CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 2023

Mr. CARSON. Mr. Speaker, as we kick off the start of Black History Month, I am proud to reintroduce legislation to award the Congressional Gold Medal to Muhammad Ali in recognition of his contributions to our Nation. I believe it is long past time to recognize this American civil rights activist and sporting legend with Congress' highest honor. Sadly, we were unable to act swiftly enough to honor him prior to his passing at age 74 in 2016, so that is why I am asking my colleagues to join me now in honoring an American hero. Over the course of his illustrious career, Muhammad Ali produced some of our Nation's most lasting and impactful sports memories. From winning a Gold Medal at the 1960 Summer Olympics, to lighting the Olympic torch at the 1996 Summer Olympics, his influence as an athlete and a humanitarian spanned over 50 years.

Despite having been diagnosed with Parkinson's disease in the 1980s, Ali devoted his life to charitable endeavors. Ali, and his wife Lonnie were founding directors of the Muhammad Ali Parkinson Center and Movement Disorders Clinic in Phoenix, AZ and helped raise over \$50 million for Parkinson's research. In addition to helping families cope with illness, Ali led efforts to provide meals for the hungry and

helped countless organizations such as the Make-A-Wish-Foundation and the Special Olympics.

Muhammad Ali's humanitarian efforts went beyond his charitable activities in the United States. In 1990 Muhammad Ali travelled to the Middle East to seek the release of American and British hostages who were being held as human shields in the first Gulf War. After his intervention, 15 hostages were freed. Thanks to his devotion to diplomatic causes and racial harmony, Ali was the recipient of many accolades, including being chosen as a "U.N. Messenger of Peace" in 1998 and receiving the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2005 from President Bush.

Through his unyielding dedication to his sport and to struggling populations around the world, Muhammad Ali still serves an example of service and self-sacrifice for generations of Americans. The Congressional Gold Medal is a fitting commemoration of his life and work, for which he is deservedly known as "the Greatest."

Mr. Speaker, I hope my colleagues will join me in recognizing one of our Nation's most lasting and influential figures by signing on to this important legislation.

RECOGNIZING THE 35TH ANNIVERSARY OF UPS AIRLINES

HON. MORGAN MCGARVEY

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 2023

Mr. MCGARVEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize UPS and celebrate the 35th anniversary of UPS Airlines' first flight. From its founding as a small bike messenger operation, UPS has grown into one of the most recognized brands in the world, and it continues to be a shining example of good corporate citizenship.

Thirty-five years ago, UPS did what many, including the Federal Aviation Administration, said could not be done—it built an airline in less than a year. UPS Airlines remains the fastest built airline in FAA history, and 3 decades later, it is one of the world's largest, safest, and most on-time airlines, moving the equivalent of 6 percent of the U.S. economy and 2 percent of global economy in goods and services through its supply chain each day.

Louisville is the proud home of UPS Airlines' primary global hub, Worldport, a facility that processes more than 2 million packages every day, employs more than 20,000 hardworking Kentuckians, serves nearly 800 airports worldwide, and plays a critical role in the supply chain ecosystem year-round. Over decades of global supply chain changes, UPS Airlines has remained a constant, providing good-paying jobs for hardworking Louisville families and adapting to ensure reliability for both customers and consumers.

On this 35th anniversary, I'm honored to recognize the tireless work of UPS Airlines serving our communities and creating pathways to success for thousands of employees across the Nation.

HONORING LIEUTENANT COLONEL
DOMINIC CALDERON UPON RE-
CEIVING THE DISTINGUISHED
FLYING CROSS

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 2023

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and commend Lieutenant Colonel Dominic Calderon of the 349th Air Mobility Wing upon receiving the Distinguished Flying Cross for his service, dedication, and sacrifice during Operation Allies Refuge. He exemplifies the best of America, and his tireless efforts guarantee the safety of all those who call America home.

Last year, the servicemembers of the 349th Air Mobility Wing met a challenge of colossal scale when they played a pivotal role in completing the drawdown of forces from Afghanistan. This command was critical in the largest noncombatant evacuation operation in known history, Operation Allies Refuge, ultimately saving over 124,000 lives. The 349th Air Mobility Wing directly supported the evacuation of nearly 13,000 Afghans while simultaneously managing the security and operations at Hamid Karzai International Airport. I have listened to countless stories from this group of brave men and women that exemplify the character, leadership, and bravery that is cultivated at Travis Air Force Base.

Service records only scratch the surface of the courageous actions performed by the 349th Air Mobility Wing. They put their hearts and lives on the line to save so many. These valiant servicemembers like Lieutenant Colonel Dominic Calderon epitomize the values of courage and patriotism.

On behalf of a grateful country and all the constituents of California's Eighth Congressional District, I would like to congratulate Lieutenant Colonel Dominic Calderon of the 349th Air Mobility Wing for receiving the Distinguished Flying Cross and extend my sincere gratitude for his sacrifice and contributions to the defense of this great country.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for

printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, February 2, 2023 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

FEBRUARY 7

Time to be announced

Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship

Organizational business meeting to consider committee rules and an original resolution authorizing expenditures by the committee for the 118th Congress.

TBA

FEBRUARY 9

10 a.m.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

Organizational business meeting to consider committee rules and an original resolution authorizing expenditures by the committee for the 118th Congress; to be immediately followed by a hearing to examine the state of the U.S. Territories.

SD-366

10:30 a.m.

Committee on Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine U.S.-China policy in the era of strategic competition.

SD-419